

to these policies by their balance of payments and other post-war difficulties. A few of the more developed countries with actual or imminent agricultural surpluses have initiated action to reduce the output of products which they cannot sell while underfed countries are restricting imports which they need but cannot buy.

In view of the reported agricultural programmes of various countries there appears an important commodity dilemma—namely, that for most farm products the intentions to export substantially exceed the intentions to import. Assuming implementation of the programmes and the maintenance of present agricultural prices and other economic factors, this situation might arise for bread grains, coarse grains, rice, sugar, fats and oils, and fish. By contrast projected exports might be less than projected imports of coffee, lumber, and wood pulp.

How to Bring About the Necessary Expansion of Agricultural Production in Under-developed Countries

The attainment of desirable nutritional standards in under-developed countries must be achieved by the full mobilization of agricultural resources for the expansion of production. Primary responsibility for achieving this rests on national Governments and national action. Such expansion of agricultural production cannot be sustained in many countries without simultaneous balanced development of industry to stimulate purchasing power.

For agriculture, the expanded technical assistance programme approved by the United Nations General Assembly acquires special significance. This programme can transform the lives of hundreds of millions of people. To take full advantage of it, Governments of under-developed countries need to examine the difficulties which impede the expansion of food production and prepare projects for overcoming them. In the preparation of agricultural extension services, better use and conservation of soils, and improvement of crop and live-stock production, technical assistance can be of great value.

Many of these countries may need to divert to agriculture a larger proportion of their available financial resources. Drainage, irrigation, land clearance, afforestation, and live-stock improvement all require large sums of money. So do the improvement of transport and of storage facilities. Because the capacity of the low income countries to save is low, domestic capital will need to be supplemented in many cases by foreign capital.

To expand agricultural production greater attention needs to be given to the problem of the transfer of population, including temporary agricultural workers, from areas where labour is surplus to areas where labour is scarce.